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Mid-April Prices Received by Farmers

Preliminary indications of prices received by Idaho farmers for the month of April showed increases for potatoes and all wheat. Prices decreased for alfalfa hay, feed barley, dry beans, beef cattle, cows, steers & heifers, and calves. All barley and all milk were unchanged.

For the U.S., the All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in April was 98 based on 1990-92= 100, up 1 point (1.0 percent) from March. Price decreases from March for milk, eggs, broilers, and corn more than offset price increases for lettuce, hogs, onions, and carrots.

Prices Received by Farmers for Selected Commodities, April 1998-April 1999

Commodity	Unit	Idaho			United States			
		April 1998	March 1999	April 1999 ^{1/}	April 1998	March 1999	April 1999	
							Price ^{1/}	% Parity
CROPS:								
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	90.00	77.00	74.00	105.00	82.40	85.60	-
Barley, All	Bu.	2.61	2.67	2.67	2.16	1.92	1.80	30
Feed	Bu.	2.26	1.82	1.80	1.90	1.48	1.48	-
Malting	Bu.	2.95	10/	10/	2.50	2.31	2.14	-
Dry Beans	Cwt.	21.80	16.80	16.70	20.80	17.20	18.80	37
Potatoes ^{2/}	Cwt.	4.55	4.55	5.00	6.27	5.81	6.47	49
Fresh ^{3/}	Cwt.	3.60	4.20	--	6.84	6.57	--	-
Processing	Cwt.	4.80	4.60	--	5.49	5.17	--	-
Wheat, All	Bu.	2.80	2.56	2.61	3.18	2.65	2.71	28
LIVESTOCK & PRODUCTS:								
Beef Cattle ^{4/}	Cwt.	60.80	58.40	57.90	63.00	62.40	62.10	41
Cows ^{5/}	Cwt.	34.60	33.60	32.10	36.20	35.20	35.10	--
Steers & Heifers	Cwt.	69.10	66.30	66.10	66.30	65.50	65.30	-
Calves	Cwt.	83.00	82.00	80.00	90.80	87.30	88.40	46
Lambs	Cwt.	57.00	62.00	--	66.00	67.40	--	-
Milk, All ^{6/}	Cwt.	12.30	12.70	12.70	14.00	15.00	^{7/} 13.00	^{8/} 44
Fluid Grade ^{9/}	Cwt.	12.30	12.70	--	14.00	15.10	^{7/} 13.00	--
Mfg. Grade	Cwt.	11.82	12.00	--	12.10	12.30	^{7/} 12.00	--

1/ Mid-month. 2/ Average price of potatoes sold for all uses, including table stock, processing, seed and livestock feed. 3/ Fresh market prices only, includes table stock prices. 4/ "Cows" and "steers and heifers" combined. 5/ Beef cows and cull dairy cows sold for slaughter. 6/ Before deductions for hauling. Includes quality, quantity, and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies. 7/ Fat test percent: all milk 3.67, fluid milk 3.66, mfg grade 3.78. 8/ Seasonally adjusted price as percentage of parity price. 9/ Includes milk diverted to manufacturing. 10/ Prices not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

United States Price Index Summary Table

Index 1990-92 = 100	March 1998	April 1998	March 1999		April 1999 Preliminary
			Preliminary	Revised	
Prices Received	102	104	97	97	98
Prices Paid	118	118	115	116	116
Ratio ^{1/}	86	88	84	84	84

1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

Idaho Onion Intentions

Onion acreage planted in Idaho is expected to be 8,100 acres, a 1 percent decrease from 1998's acreage and a 4 percent decrease from 1997. Planting is well underway throughout the state and progressing normally.

Nationally, summer storage onions are intended to be planted on 87,710 acres, slightly less than 1998 but a little more than

1997. This national acreage total does not include California, where summer storage onions are mostly for processing. California producers expect to plant 29,500 acres of summer onions. This is an 8 percent decrease from last year. Summer non-storage acreage is down 4 percent from last year, and spring onion acreage has increased 1 percent from the previous year.

Onions: Area Planted by Season, State, and United States, 1997-99

Season and State	Acres			1999 As Percent of 1998
	1997	1998	1999	
Spring ^{1/}	40,600	36,500	37,000	101
Summer ^{1/}				
Non-storage				
Nevada ^{2/}	1,800	2,100		
New Mexico	7,900	7,300	7,200	99
Texas	4,200	4,200	3,800	90
Washington	900	850	850	100
Summer Non-storage Total ^{3/}	14,800	14,450	11,850	96
Storage				
Colorado	18,000	16,500	16,000	97
IDAHO	8,400	8,200	8,100	99
Michigan	5,000	4,900	4,300	88
Minnesota	650	490	490	100
New York	12,500	13,100	13,100	100
Ohio	520	530	520	98
Oregon				
Malheur	12,200	12,200	13,000	107
West	7,600	7,600	7,000	92
Utah	2,400	2,500	2,500	100
Washington	17,800	19,800	20,800	105
Wisconsin	2,200	2,100	1,900	90
Summer Storage Subtotal	87,270	87,920	87,710	100
California ^{4/}	32,400	32,000	29,500	92
Summer Storage Total ^{3/}	134,470	134,370	129,060	98
U.S. ^{3/}	175,070	170,870	166,060	98

1/ Primarily fresh market. 2/ Estimate to be published in January 2000 annual. 3/ Percent calculated excluding Nevada. 4/ Primarily processing.

Idaho's Winter Wheat Production Decreases

Idaho's 1999 winter wheat production is forecast at 54.7 million bushels, down 13 percent from last year, and 21 percent below the 1997 crop. Based on May 1 conditions, the yield is estimated at 77.0 bushels per acre, down from the record yield of 82.0 bushels per acre last year. Acres expected to be harvested are set at 710,000 acres, a decrease of 60,000 acres from last year.

Idaho's May 1 hay stocks totaled 777,000 tons, down from 3,329,000 tons on hand December 1, 1998. Current stocks are up 49 percent from the May 1, 1998 total of 520,000 tons, and are 172 percent higher than the May 1, 1997 total of 286,000 tons.

Nationally, winter wheat production is forecast at 1.61 billion bushels, down 14 percent from 1998 and 13 percent below 1997 production. Based on May 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 44.4 bushels per acre, 2.5 bushels per acre less than last year's record high. Area for harvest as grain is forecast at 36.3 million acres, down 9 percent from last season.

Hay stocks on farms totaled 24.8 million tons on May 1, 1999, 14 percent more than on May 1, 1998.

Winter Wheat: Area Harvested, Yield, and Production Selected States and United States, 1997-98 and Forecasted May 1, 1999

State	Area Harvested			Yield			Production		
	1997	1998	1999	1997	1998	1999	1997	1998	1999
	<i>1,000 Acres</i>			<i>Bushels</i>			<i>Thousands</i>		
Arkansas	820	900	830	48.0	51.0	53.0	39,360	45,900	43,990
California	400	380	390	70.0	60.0	70.0	28,000	22,800	27,300
Colorado	2,700	2,550	2,400	32.0	39.0	38.0	86,400	99,450	91,200
IDAHO	860	770	710	80.0	82.0	77.0	68,800	63,140	54,670
Illinois	1,090	1,200	1,020	61.0	48.0	52.0	66,490	57,600	53,040
Kansas	10,900	10,100	9,500	46.0	49.0	43.0	501,400	494,900	408,500
Missouri	1,080	1,250	950	54.0	46.0	48.0	58,320	57,500	45,600
Montana	1,450	1,250	1,000	38.0	39.0	40.0	55,100	48,750	40,000
Nebraska	1,900	1,800	1,900	37.0	46.0	40.0	70,300	82,800	76,000
Nevada	14	6	10	100.0	100.0	90.0	1,400	600	900
Ohio	1,090	1,160	1,030	63.0	64.0	61.0	68,670	74,240	62,830
Oklahoma	5,300	5,100	4,500	32.0	39.0	34.0	169,600	198,900	153,000
Oregon	815	790	640	66.0	67.0	59.0	53,790	52,930	37,760
South Dakota	1,150	1,420	1,260	30.0	43.0	42.0	34,500	61,060	52,920
Texas	4,100	3,900	3,400	29.0	35.0	31.0	118,900	136,500	105,400
Utah	165	150	145	46.0	50.0	50.0	7,590	7,500	7,250
Washington	2,150	2,100	1,800	66.0	65.0	64.0	141,900	136,500	115,200
Wyoming	225	200	170	31.0	32.0	33.0	6,975	6,400	5,610
UNITED STATES	41,340	40,126	36,343	44.6	46.9	44.4	1,845,528	1,880,605	1,614,799

Idaho Milk Production Up 8 Percent

Idaho milk production during April 1999 totaled 505 million pounds, up 8 percent from the same month last year but down slightly from March 1999. Average milk production per cow in April 1999 was 1,630 pounds, up 10 pounds from April 1998 but down 20 pounds from March 1999. The average number of milk cows in April was 310,000 head, 22,000 more than in April 1998 and 3,000 more than in March 1999.

Nationally, April milk production in the 20 major States totaled 12.0 billion pounds, up 3.4 percent from production in these same States in April 1998. March revised production, at 12.2 billion pounds, was up 4.6 percent from March 1998. Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,553 pounds for April, 52 pounds above April 1998. The number of cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.71 million head, 1,000 head less than April 1998, but 4,000 head more than March 1999.

Milk Production. Average Number of Cows. Selected States. April 1998-1999

State	Milk Cows 1/		Milk Per Cow 2/		Milk Production 2/		1999 As Percent of 1998
	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	
	<i>1,000 Head</i>		<i>Pounds</i>		<i>Million Pounds</i>		
Arizona	130	132	1,885	2,070	245	273	111
California	1,410	1,456	1,640	1,770	2,312	2,577	111
Florida	162	160	1,375	1,480	223	237	106
IDAHO	288	310	1,620	1,630	467	505	108
Illinois	129	124	1,490	1,430	192	177	92
Indiana	136	136	1,410	1,340	192	182	95
Iowa	223	215	1,465	1,500	327	323	99
Kentucky	141	134	1,135	1,090	160	146	91
Michigan	298	294	1,495	1,540	446	453	102
Minnesota	555	545	1,435	1,495	796	815	102
Missouri	173	161	1,305	1,305	226	210	93
New Mexico	216	231	1,720	1,740	372	402	108
New York	700	700	1,420	1,450	994	1,015	102
Ohio	265	260	1,470	1,420	390	369	95
Pennsylvania	624	615	1,530	1,545	955	950	99
Texas	359	342	1,490	1,545	535	528	99
Vermont	162	162	1,405	1,445	228	234	103
Virginia	125	122	1,320	1,305	165	159	96
Washington	249	248	1,790	1,865	446	463	104
Wisconsin	1,368	1,365	1,395	1,435	1,908	1,959	103
20 STATE TOTAL	7,713	7,712	1,501	1,553	11,579	11,977	103

1/ Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh. 2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

U.S. Dairy Products March 1999 Highlights

Butter production was 109 million pounds in March, 2.5 percent above March 1998 but 1.9 percent below February 1999.

American Type Cheese production totaled 314 million pounds, 10.3 percent above March 1998 and 13.1 percent above February 1999.

Total Cheese output (excluding cottage cheese) was 688 million pounds, 6.4 percent above March 1998 and 14.6 percent above February 1999.

Creamed Cottage Cheese production was 30.7 million pounds, 3.3 percent below March 1998 but 12.6 percent above February 1999.

Lowfat Cottage Cheese production was 34.3 million pounds, 9.5 percent above March 1998 and 23.0 percent above February 1999.

Frozen Desserts: (Comparisons with March 1998)

Ice cream

Regular (hard) - 75.4 million gallons, down 3.7 percent.

Lowfat (total) - 30.5 million gallons, down 12.3 percent.

Nonfat (hard) - 2.43 million gallons, down 35.7 percent.

Sherbet (hard) - 4.67 million gallons, up 3.3 percent.

Frozen Yogurt (total) - 8.78 million gallons, up 6.3 percent.

Dry Milk Products: (Comparisons with March 1998)

Nonfat Dry Milk

for Human Food - 128 million pounds, up 20.2 percent.

Dry whole milk - 9.54 million pounds, down 19.1 percent.

Dry buttermilk - 5.41 million pounds, up 4.8 percent.